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# Hebrew Watchman

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#### Radiant Memories Being Made at MJHR



MJHR staff in their color wars outfits.

#### By Jasmine Williams

The week of May 12 through 18, Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab celebrated National Skilled Nursing Care Week. The Home is always excited to celebrate the staff and the impact they have on the residents, but during this special time in May, MJHR goes above and beyond. The week was filled with laughs, dress-up days, and – of course – healthy competition. The theme this year was Radiant Memories: A Tribute to the Golden Age of Radio, which connects to a time when the residents of MJHR would sit around the family radio to hear the local news or enjoy music with their loved ones.

The Home started the week with a Decade Day, where the residents and staff dressed as their favorite decade whether that was the 70s, 80s, or 90s! The day was filled with exciting games like Family Feud and a cake walk. Family Feud encouraged many laughs and fun competition, and the cake walk left the residents and staff with a very satisfied sweet tooth.

The next few days were themed

with Twin Day, Color Wars, and Tacky Thursday. From matching feather outfits to Barbie shirts, everyone was definitely seeing double. Tacky Thursday was a burst of colors, mixed-match shoes, crazy bows, and lots of glitter. Using the intercom, the team played Memphis-themed trivia and bingo across the entire facility! That afternoon, the staff, visitors, and residents enjoyed a sunny day outside with MEMPops. There was no dull moment during the entire week.

The Nick Black Band closed out the week with a few Memphis favorite songs and a few originals. What better way to end a week of fun and community than with a concert together, dancing and singing with the staff that is the glue and backbone of the Home? Whether it's playing Deal or No Deal, trying to solve Escape Rooms, or debating the rules of UNO, let's not forget the true reason of the week. National Skilled Nursing Care Week is an essential time of recognition for the people in healthcare who set aside



MJHR staff and residents in their Skilled Nursing Care Week-themed shirts.

time and effort to care for the senior citizens in the community, and for that, they deserve a celebration. MJHR hopes that everyone can reflect on how necessary it is to be intentional with the seniors in our community, and whether it's the 1920s or 2020s, let's continue creating radiant memories with our seniors!

Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab is a not-for-profit nursing home, Jewish in character and environment, dedicated to providing the highest level of care possible with dignity, compassion, and professionalism. Only through the help of generous donors is the organization able to care for those in need. For more information, please visit www. memphisjewishhome.org/giving. HW



MJHR staff with Family Feud winners, residents Eva and Darcus.

# Federation Supports Paths to Communication at Recent Civil Discourse Workshop



Leora Schaefer, Dr. Steve Becton, Rachel Shankman, Jill Shanker, Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein and Jill Notowich.

In Jewish communities across the U.S. and here in Memphis, there is a pervasive atmosphere of tension and sadness, caused by the October 7 attack

and its aftermath. Even more difficult is the dramatic rise in antisemitism, seen on college campuses and in other public and private spaces. Federation's Community Relations Council (CRC) met this moment by hosting a workshop, "Civil Discourse Amid Conflict," presented by Leora Schaefer, Executive Director, Facing History and Ourselves Canada, and Dr. Steve Becton, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, Facing History & Ourselves. Rachel Shankman, Chair of the CRC Education Committee, brought the workshop to the Memphis Jewish community.

Ms. Schaefer opened the workshop by asking attendees about the feelings and concerns they are carrying during this stressful period. Shelley Robbins shared, "I have felt ill and sick at heart since October 7."

Jill Notowich, Co-Chair of Federation's CRC, added, "I am feeling very sad and vulnerable."

Paul Berz expressed his discouragement, saying, "Antisemitism is a light

sleeper."

Dr. Becton affirmed the attendees' experiences and emotions, saying "I have been with Facing History for 20 years, and the current situation is not like any I have previously seen."

Ms. Schaefer agreed and said, "Everyone is vibrating at a high frequency in this climate and is asking themselves who will make them feel better. The conversations we are attempting to have are more than intellectual – they affect our hearts and our whole beings."

Ms. Schaefer emphasized, "We cannot have candid conversations when we are not our best selves. One way we can work toward being better versions of ourselves is to have tools for productive discussions."

She and Dr. Becton introduced the "Quad of Discourse," which encourag-

(See Workshop Page 3)

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### Schloss Lodge Donates More Bears...



Junior Kindergarten students at the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center are happy to receive Berenstain Bears from Sam Schloss Lodge of B'nai B'rith. Pictured are (L-R) Blair Trotz, head of school, lodge members Elaine Miner, Harold Steinberg and David Ross, and faculty members Leah Farrar and Judi Rosen.

Members of Sam Schloss Lodge of B'nai B'rith delivered over 100 bears to happy students at the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center at Temple Israel.

Four different Berenstain Bears were delivered earlier this month by Schloss Lodge members David Ross, Elaine Miner and Harold Steinberg.

Head of School Blair Trotz said, "The simple act of receiving a teddy bear might seem insignificant, but for children, it means the world. These soft, cuddly companions serve as more than just a toy; they are a source of comfort, security, and companionship."

Trotz added, "In addition to the immediate joy they bring, these teddy bears also play a crucial role in our students' development. They provide a sense of familiarity and emotional support, especially during times of transition or

when they are feeling anxious or scared. Moreover, they encourage imaginative play and help to develop cognitive and social skills.'

She concluded, "The kindness of the members of the Sam Schloss Lodge does not go unnoticed. You have made a positive difference in the lives of our children."

Since the project was founded in 2002 by Dr. Joel Turetzky and the late Leon Hellman, the lodge has donated over 30,000 stuffed bears to agencies including Plough Towers, Child Advocacy Center, American Red Cross, West Cancer Clinic, Germantown EMT, Hope House, several local schools and the Cross County Library in Wynne, Ark.

Schloss Lodge is grateful for the generous donation by Temple Israel Brotherhood, which provided the necessary funds. HW

#### Israel's War Cabinet Orders **Negotiators to Continue Hostage**

(JNS) - Israel's War Cabinet last Wednesday night approved updated guidelines for the team negotiating the release of the remaining hostages held by Hamas in Gaza.

After four hours of deliberation, described by "Walla! News" reporter Barak Ravid's sources as "in-depth and positive," it was decided unanimously to restart negotiations under new guidelines after the talks stalled some two weeks ago.

A proposal presented by Israel Defense Forces Maj. Gen. Nitzan Alon to renew negotiations was rejected by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last Saturday night at the end of that day's War Cabinet meeting, but this time the premier gave the green light.

changed the terms of a ceasefire deal that Israel had already signed off on earlier in May to make it more favorable to Hamas, CNN reported last Tuesday.

Citing three sources with knowledge of the discussions, the U.S.-based news network revealed for the first time the changes made by Cairo, which angered

An Egyptian intelligence official

## Hebrew Watchman

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> PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846

> Office: 901.763.2215 Direct: 901.827.7244

info@hebrewwatchman.com

Susan C. Nieman **Editor and Publisher** 

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Toni Nieman Office Manager & Subscriptions toni@hebrewwatchman.com

> Rebecca Miller Schudel **Social Media Director** Web Development

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#### Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. May 31, 2024 / 23 lyar, 5784 ...... 7:50 p.m. Havdalah, Sat. June 1, 2024 / 24 lyar, 5784 ....... 8:53 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Bechukotai

American, Israeli and Qatari negotiators and left negotiations at an impasse.

The move raises questions about Egypt's role in the ceasefire talks.

Before Egypt underhandedly changed the terms of the deal, U.S. officials had praised Jerusalem for its concessions, calling it "extraordinarily generous on the part of Israel."

On May 6, Hamas announced that it had agreed to the proposal altered by Egypt. According to Netanyahu, the agreement that Hamas sent back "was very far from Israel's core demands.'

Talks have been in a stalemate since

The terrorist group still holds over 100 hostages kidnapped on Oct. 7.

Cairo has so far rejected an Israeli proposal to work together to reopen Gaza's Rafah Crossing with Sinai and manage its operation jointly. The Israel Defense Forces took control of the Gaza side of the Rafah Crossing on the morning of May 7.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken last Wednesday called on the Egyptian government to take whatever measures are necessary to ensure the entry of aid into Gaza.

"We do strongly urge our Egyptian partners to do everything that they can on their end of things to make sure that assistance is flowing," the top diplomat said at a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"We need to find a way to make sure that the assistance that would go through Rafah can get through safely," Blinken also told lawmakers.

Last Tuesday, a senior Biden administration official offered a rare rebuke of Cairo's refusal to work with Jerusalem to coordinate aid shipments to Gaza.

"What should be going into Kerem Shalom [a crossing point between Israel and Gaza] is the U.N. assistance, which is now in Egypt. Egypt is holding that back until the Rafah Crossing situation settles out," the official told reporters during a briefing. **HW** 



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#### Workshop...

(Continued From Page 1) es people who are trying to find common ground to come to a conversation to hear, learn, and grow, and to visit a different point of view.

The Quad of Discourse provides four concepts to promote a civil exchange of ideas – humility, empathy, grace, and curiosity. These concepts can create a foundation of safety for a difficult conversation and can facilitate sharing conflicting ideas in an established safe space.

Ms. Schaefer provided context for using the Quad of Discourse, remarking, "If you are attempting to have a discussion with someone who disagrees with your point of view, tell the other person you are interested in learning and practicing humility, knowing that no one has all the answers. And, you are practicing empathy as well, which is really at the heart of any healthy interaction."

As the workshop concluded, attendees were discussing the Quad of Discourse and how they would use the concepts to address conflicts with friends and family members. Jonathan Frisch expressed his gratitude for the workshop, saying. "I really appreciated having this opportunity to learn and address conflicts in a new way." HW

# MOVING? PLEASE LET US KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

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#### Baron Hirsch Kol Rena So-Shuls June Luncheon



#### April Kol rena So-Shuls luncheon.

The June Baron Hirsch Kol Rena So-Shuls Luncheon will take place on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at noon at the Baron Hirsch Synagogue.

So-Shuls luncheons are for persons who are 64 years or older, and the cost is \$5 each.

A Bingo game will follow the meal.

The June luncheon menu includes hamburgers (with all the fixings), French fries, fruit and delicious homemade brownies for dessert.

The Beverly Brothers will provide lively entertainment with their "oldies and goodies" musical performance. They will perform courtesy of Creative Aging.

Please note, there will be no July or August So-Shuls Luncheons during a summer break. The So-Shuls Luncheons will resume in September.

We thank all the volunteers and attendees who have made the So-Shuls Luncheons so successful. The joy of joining in the SoShuls is a simple recipe: new and old friends getting together, listening to memorable music by local performers, playing Bingo, and having a good meal.

Come be part of the fun and meet old friends, make new friends, or invite a friend to join you at the June So-Shuls luncheon. Make your reservation by email to gwen@baronhirsch.org or by calling 901-683-7485. Please make your reservations by June 3, 2024.

We look forward to seeing you there at noon on Wednesday, June 5, 2024. **HW** 

#### The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

Lunch is Monday—Friday at 11:30 a.m. All programs start at 12:15 p.m. Monthly Luncheon is at noon.

Monday, June 3

#### Program: Universal Language Room with Jason Caplan

Jason will bring his popular program the Universal Language Room. Jason always brings several different simple musical instruments, and by the end of the program, all of the people are playing together! No previous musical experience is necessary. It is a fun time for all. There is no charge for the program.

#### Wednesday, June 5 Ask the Rabbi: with Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

Rabbi Sarit of Beth Sholom Synagogue became the Conservative congregation's 11th rabbi in its 62-year history, and its third female rabbi since 2004. Her talks are always popular and meaningful as well. This is a good chance to have a nice lunch and get some answers to questions you have been thinking of. Reservations can be made by calling the front desk at 901-761-0810.

#### Monday, June 10 Very Special Program: Team Trivial Pursuit!

As before, we will split the room up into teams and see who the champions of trivia are! Questions come from the Authorized edition of Trivial Pursuit, most of which come from the Boomer edition. Come test your knowledge! Prizes will be given to the winning team.

### Wednesday, June 12 The MJCC will be closed for Shavuot. Enjoy the Holiday!

Please join us Monday through Friday for a delicious Kosher lunch from the Kitchens at Memphis Jewish Home. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. by contacting Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis. org, or by calling the front desk at 901-761-0810. **HW** 

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#### Biden: Israel Will Get 'Everything it Needs' to Fight Hamas; Gaza War is 'Not Genocide'



U.S. President Joe Biden greets guests after speaking at a reception celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month in the Rose Garden of the White House, May 20, 2024. Credit: Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) – President Joe Biden told a Jewish gathering that he will ensure that Israel will have "everything it needs" to fight Hamas, a pledge that comes after weeks of tension between the governments over his pause on the delivery of large bombs.

"I'll always ensure that Israel has everything it needs to defend itself against Hamas, and all its enemies," Biden told a White House reception last Monday marking Jewish American Heritage Month. The crowd of several hundred in the Rose Garden cheered and applauded.

Biden also denounced the charges of genocide against Israel in the International Court of Justice, where a prosecutor said earlier in the day that he would be seeking war crimes charges against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and top Hamas officials.

"Let me be clear: We reject the ICC's

application for arrest warrants against Israeli leaders," Biden said, adding, "Contrary to allegations made against Israel in the International Court of Justice, what's happening is not genocide."

The comments come weeks after Biden alarmed some Jewish leaders in the United States by pausing the delivery of large bombs to Israel as its government prepared to enter Rafah, the city on the Gaza-Egypt border where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced by the Israel-Hamas war sought refuge, and where Netanyahu says Hamas maintains a substantial force. Biden said he was concerned about Israel's conduct of the war and its preparedness to protect civilians.

Biden has yet to lift the pause, but tensions appear to have diminished. Israel says hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have safely evacuated from Rafah.

Jake Sullivan, the national security adviser, last week visited Israel, and reports the Biden administration and the Netanyahu government shared from his meetings conveyed agreement on most issues.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and military chief of staff Herzi Halevi "briefed Mr. Sullivan on new alternative approaches to defeating Hamas in Rafah to address the concerns that have been expressed by the U.S. side," the White House said of the meetings Sullivan held last Monday.

Gallant's report said he "presented humanitarian plans undertaken in Gaza that complement operational activities on the ground. This includes significant efforts to evacuate the civilian population in Rafah, facilitating the provision of humanitarian services, and operating in a precise manner to avoid harm to uninvolved civilians."

Sullivan has sought to tamp down talk of a strategic split between Israel and the United States, relaying to the press last week 10 principles governing Biden administration policy in Israel, emphasizing U.S. support for the Israel's overarching war goals, the release of hostages still held in Gaza, and the elimination of Hamas as a force to be reckoned with.

Biden reemphasized that comity in his Rose Garden speech. "We stand with Israel to take out [Hamas leader Yahya] Sinwar and the rest of the butchers of Hamas," he said. "We want Hamas defeated, and work with Israel to make that happen."

Republicans have said the pause on the delivery of the large bombs is a betrayal of Israel, and last week the GOPled House voted for a bill that would keep presidents from pausing weapons delivery to Israel without congressional review. The bill was symbolic and has little chance of becoming law.

Pro-Israel Democrats have adopted a strategy of saying that the support the Biden administration continues to provide Israel dwarfs the relevance of the pause of the bombs.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, the Jewish New York Democrat who is majority leader, made that argument later last Monday at a conference of the leadership of the Jewish Democratic Council of America.

"Under the president's leadership and my leadership, \$14 billion was given to Israel without conditions attached," he said.

At the Jewish American Heritage Month event, Biden decried antisemitism and specified antisemitism on campuses, a key issue as pro-Palestinian protests roil campuses and in some cases devolve into attacks on Jewish students.

"In America, we respect and protect fundamental rights of free speech, protest peacefully. That's America," he said. "But there's no place in any campus in America, any place in America for antisemitism for hate speech that threatens violence of any kind against Jews or anyone else."

Biden met with the parents of an American-Israeli hostage, Hersh Goldberg-Polin. Later in the evening, Rachel Goldberg and Jon Polin also addressed the JDCA event.

Polin urged those attending to help keep the 128 hostages still believed to be in Gaza front of the American mind. "We all need to be fighting every day all day to bring them home," he said. **HW** 

# U.S. 'Fundamentally Rejects' ICC 'Outrageous' Bid for Warrants for Israeli Leaders

(JNS) – Hours after an International Criminal Court prosecutor sought arrest warrants for senior Israeli officials alongside Hamas terrorists, and after members of Congress denounced that decision, U.S. President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken released statements.

"The ICC prosecutor's application for arrest warrants against Israeli leaders is outrageous," the president said in a very terse statement. "Let me be clear: whatever this prosecutor might imply, there is no equivalence – none – between Israel and Hamas. We will always stand with Israel against threats to its security."

Washington "fundamentally rejects" the announcement from the United Nations body in The Hague, Blinken wrote in a heftier statement.

"We reject the prosecutor's equivalence of Israel with Hamas. It is shameful," he said. "Hamas is a brutal terrorist organization that carried out the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust and is still holding dozens of innocent people hostage, including Americans."

The ICC prosecutor said that he is seeking arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for "war crimes and crimes against humanity."

Blinken stated that Washington "has been clear since well before the current conflict that the ICC has no jurisdiction over this matter."

"The ICC was established by its state parties as a court of limited jurisdiction. Those limits are rooted in principles of complementarity, which do not appear to have been applied here amid the prosecutor's rush to seek these arrest warrants rather than allowing the Israeli legal system a full and timely opportunity to proceed," said the U.S. secretary of state.

"In other situations, the prosecutor deferred to national investigations and worked with states to allow them time to investigate," Blinken stated. "The prosecutor did not afford the same opportunity to Israel, which has ongoing investigations into allegations against its personnel."

Blinken also said that there are "deeply troubling process questions."

"Despite not being a member of the court, Israel was prepared to cooperate with the prosecutor.

In fact, the prosecutor himself was scheduled to visit Israel as early as

next week to discuss the investigation and hear from the Israeli government," Blinken said.

The ICC prosecutor's staff was scheduled to land in Israel on May 20 to coordinate that visit, according to Blinken.

"Israel was informed that they did not board their flight around the same time that the prosecutor went on cable television to announce the charges. These and other circumstances call into question the legitimacy and credibility of this investigation," the U.S. official said.

"Fundamentally, this decision does nothing to help, and could jeopardize, ongoing efforts to reach a ceasefire agreement that would get hostages out and surge humanitarian assistance in, which are the goals the United States continues to pursue relentlessly," he added. **HW** 

#### Netanyahu Rules Out Gaza Resettlement Post-Hamas

(JNS) – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last Tuesday ruled out resettlement in the Gaza Strip after the war against Hamas.

"If you mean resettling Gaza...it was never in the cards, and I said so openly. And some of my constituents are not happy about it, but that's my position," the premier said in an interview with CNN's Jake Tapper.

Netanyahu reiterated his "day after" plan, whereby Israel will stay in charge of security in Gaza until insurgency and terrorism is completely rooted out, after which Gazans can take charge of the Strip.

"I think the only force that can pre-

vent the resurgence of terrorism for the foreseeable future is Israel. At the same time, we want, I want a civilian administration that is run by Gazans who are neither Hamas nor committed to our destruction," he said.

Netanyahu also said he wants to see a coalition of "moderate Arab states and the international community" that can assist in the reconstruction of Gaza.

The plan is not likely to be welcomed by some in his coalition.

The same day the interview aired, Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir reiterated his own plan for after the war.

"Complete occupation of Gaza, ev-

erything is ours. Full Israeli control including Jewish settlement and voluntary encouragement of immigration. Not only in settlements that have been evacuated," he told the "Kikar HaShabbat" website. Ben-Gvir also said he would be willing to live in Gaza.

During the interview, Tapper asked about the recent announcement by the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor that he would be seeking arrest warrants for Israeli leaders, including Netanyahu.

The prime minister called the move "beyond outrageous," adding, "This is a rogue prosecutor that has put false charges and created false symmetries

"It was never in the cards," the premier told CNN's Jake Tapper.

that are both dangerous and false. And the first false symmetry is, he equates the democratically elected leaders of Israel with the terrorist tyrants of Hamas."

This, he said, was like "issuing the arrest warrants for FDR and Churchill, but also for Hitler, or I'm issuing arrest warrants for George Bush, George W. Bush, but also for [Osama] bin Laden. That's absurd." **HW** 

#### Beth Sholom Elects New Officers, Board Members at Annual Meeting



Introducing Beth Sholom's 2024-2025 Board of Directors. First row: Sandy Friedman, VP-Finance/Treasurer; Naomi Katz, Immediate Past President; Lindsey Rossen, VP-Education; Keri Unowsky, President; Susan Levko, Sisterhood President; Gregg Beeber; and Gregory Miles. Second row: Jeannie Ashford; Stacy Canales; Lee Harkavy; Rebecca Landau; Skip Rossen; Amy Hertz, VP-Membership; Anthony Morrison, VP-Development; Russell Scheinberg, VP-Ritual; Christine Scheinberg, VP-Personnel & Administration/Corporate Secretary; and Sarah Siegel. Not shown: Lon Alperin, VP-Facilities; Dana Bernstein, VP-Programming; Leslie Epstein, Cemetery Representative; Peshie Chaifetz; Liza Levko; and John Pregulman

Beth Sholom's members elected a new slate of officers and board members at the synagogue's annual meeting on May 19. The new President Keri Unowsky succeeds Naomi Katz, who led the shul for two years marked by a continued growth in membership, successful gala events, and vibrant spiritual, educational, and holiday programming that drew in members from throughout the Memphis Jewish community.

In her remarks, Unowsky said, "The shul is in one of the very best places it has been in its history." She continued, "I love Beth Sholom. It is my home away from home and a source of endless joy."

In addition to Unowsky, the synagogue's new officers are Anthony Morrison, VP-Development; Lindsey Rossen, VP-Education; Lon Alperin, VP-Facilities; Amy Hertz, VP-Membership; Christine Scheinberg, VP-Personnel & Administration/Corporate Secretary; Dana Bernstein, VP-Programming; Russell Scheinberg, VP-Ritual; Sandy Friedman, VP-Finance/Treasurer; and Naomi Katz, Immediate Past President.

The congregation re-elected Liza

Levko for a new two-year term and elected seven new board members: Gregg Beeber, Stacy Canales, Peshie Chaifetz, Lee Harkavy, Rebecca Landau, Gregory Miles, and John Pregulman.

Continuing on the board are Jeannie Ashford, Skip Rossen, and Sarah Siegel. The board also includes Susan Levko as Sisterhood President and Leslie Epstein as Cemetery Representative.

Unowsky said the 2024-2025 board reflects the shul's commitment to diversity and inclusion. "The board is truly a rainbow of different genders, ages, races, and sexual orientation," she acknowledged.

Unowsky noted that when she became a gabbai years ago, she followed in the footsteps of her grandfather and her father. Now, she said, she is following both her father's and her aunt's paths as presidents of their congregations.

The annual meeting was preceded by a delicious lunch orchestrated by Susan Levko and was followed by a dessert buffet. "It is a sweet start to a milestone year for Beth Sholom, as we will be celebrating its 70th anniversary," Unowsky said HW

#### Israeli AG, State Attorney Reject ICC Request to Arrest Netanyahu, Gallant



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant hold a press conference at the Ministry of Defense in Tel Aviv, Oct. 28, 2023. Credit: Dana Kopel/POOL.

#### By David Isaac

(JNS) – Israel's Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara and State Attorney Amit Aisman rejected as "without foundation" the International Criminal Court prosecutor's request to the Hague court to issue arrest warrants for Israel's prime minister and defense minister.

"The security forces, including the IDF, wage war with full commitment to the rules of international law," Baharav-Miara and Aisman said in a statement last Wednesday. They added that the court lacks "any authority" in the matter.

Last Tuesday, ICC Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan announced he would request warrants for the arrest of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, claiming he has "reasonable grounds" to believe that they have committed war crimes.

Last Tuesday, Foreign Minister Israel Katz said he would form "a special command center" to fight the ICC.

The ICC's assault on the legitimacy of Israel's war effort despite lacking jurisdiction (Israel never signed on to the Rome Statute, which underpins the court) has raised questions among observers about Israel's handling of the ICC threat until now.

Avi Bell, a professor of law at the University of San Diego and at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, leveled criticism at both the Foreign Ministry and the Attorney General's Office, which for years have opted for a policy of cooperation.

He told JNS that only a few months ago, the ICC prosecutor's team was in-

vited to Israel "to interview witnesses, collect evidence and coordinate with the PLO in Ramallah."

Given their track record, officials at the Foreign Ministry and Attorney General's Office are the "last people" who should handle ICC strategy going forward, Bell said.

Last Tuesday, Netanyahu and Gallant called the proposed arrest warrants "beyond outrageous" and "disgraceful."

Khan said the two men were guilty of, among other things, the "starvation of civilians," "willfully causing great suffering, and "intentionally directing attacks against a civilian population."

The U.S. administration also denounced the ICC prosecutor's move, with President Joe Biden saying, "there is no equivalence – none – between Israel and Hamas," referring to Khan's simultaneous request for arrest warrants against Israeli and Hamas leaders.

European parliamentarians in Israel on a solidarity visit also expressed shock and disbelief that the ICC prosecutor would create a false equivalence between Israel's leaders and a terrorist group.

However, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and Slovenia issued tempered support for the ICC, saying its independence should be respected.

Ireland, Norway and Spain went further, announcing last Wednesday that they will recognize a Palestinian state, earning praise from terrorist group Hamas, which less than eight months ago carried out the worst single-day massacre of Jews since the Holocaust.

"We consider this an important step towards affirming our right to our land," Hamas said, calling "on countries around the world to recognize our legitimate national rights."

Israel recalled its ambassadors to those countries in response.

Some European leaders have come to Israel's defense. Hungarian Premier Viktor Orban called the ICC prosecutor's proposal "absurd and shameful." Italy and the United Kingdom agreed.

However, the U.K.'s support for Israel only extends to its current government, which lost badly in local elections earlier this month and is expected to fall in the next general elections.

Labour Party Shadow Foreign Secretary David Lammy said his country must comply with all ICC warrants.

"Labour believes that the U.K. and all parties to the Rome Statute have a legal obligation to comply with orders and warrants issued by the court. Democracies who believe in the rule of law must submit themselves to it," he said. **HW** 



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#### Bornblum Elects "Double Chai" Board of Directors



Bornblum Board of Directors Officers, President Jeri Moskovitz and Immediate Past President Janice Ringel, at the School's annual meeting.

At its Annual Meeting on May 19, 2024, Bornblum Jewish Community School elected its Board of Directors for the 2024-2025 school year.

"This is a very special board because it will serve the school during our Double Chai (36th) anniversary," shared Bornblum Head of School Daniel R. Weiss, Ed.D.

At the meeting, Janice Ringel, immediate Past President, thanked Dr. Weiss

and the entire faculty and staff for their "outstanding leadership and passion for continued academic excellence and growth." Ringel also acknowledged each board member's dedication and contribution to Bornblum's many achievements over the past two years. She gave special recognition to retiring board members, Amy Egerman, Adam Lazarov, Scott Notowich and Jill Shanker, for their exceptional service and

commitment to the school

Bornblum's Double Chai board will be led by President Jeri Moskovitz, who was elected for a two-year term. Jeri is a long-time champion of Bornblum, not only having her two children graduate from the school, but also serving on the board three different times in the last 20 years. "Jeri's enthusiasm, thoughtful nature, and strong work ethic will no doubt take Bornblum to new heights," said Ringel.

Joining Moskovitz on the executive committee as officers of the board are Jaclyn Marshall as vice president, Monte Eiseman as treasurer, Patti Weiss as secretary, Ryan Saharovich as counsel, and Janice Ringel as immediate past president.

Returning board members include Abraham Bendayan, Rhonda Feiler, Scott Felsenthal, Zachary Kisber, Judy Moss, David Petersen, Anne Reef and Jana Weiskopf. The school's new board members are Stacy Canales, Michelle Goldwin Kaufman, Stuart Lazarov and Shayna Roark.

Reflecting on her election as president, Moskovitz shared that she is, "deeply honored to serve as president during a significant time in Bornblum's history. Our 36th anniversary is not just a celebration of our past achievements but also a moment to look toward the future," she said. "I am excited to work alongside a talented and dedicated group of individuals who share my passion for Bornblum."

At the annual meeting, Dr. Weiss presented Staff Longevity Awards to Michelle Johnson (5 years), Jesus Escandon (10 years), Scott Ostrow (10 years), Sandra Reyes (10 years), and Sally Baer (35 years). He also presented the Volunteer of the Year Award to Abraham Bendayan for the many hours of expertise he spent implementing the school's technological infrastructure. According to Dr. Weiss, "Abraham has

a keen sense of the technology needs of the school and has volunteered so many hours of his time to ensure that we can successfully deliver the innovative and outstanding education our students receive."

As is the annual tradition, Dr. Weiss delivered his Head of School report that highlighted the many achievements of Bornblum over the last six years, including many of the school's signature programs, such as the Newburger Mishpachot program, the expansion of Design Thinking, creation of the Bornblum Middle Capstone Projects, and the growth of Outdoor Education. Weiss pointed to the critical role Jewish Day School's like Bornblum continue to play in educating the next generation of Jews to live in an increasingly difficult world. "Our school is a safe place for Jewish students and families, and I encourage each of us to share that publicly. What we have built here should not be ignored. We could not have imagined the events of October 7th and what it would mean for our teachers, staff, students and parents. Our school and community have come together in a way that should make us all proud. Together, we have demonstrated the unwavering Zionist spirit that is a part of our school and community."

The annual meeting also included significant student participation. Eighth graders Mollie Felsenthal, Sophie Rossen and Nava VanderWalde gave a D'var Torah, and seventh grade student, Orli VanderWalde, presented her Capstone Project, which focused on the development of prototype for an App that will help children whose families adopt pets to prepare for the tasks associated with pet ownership.

"Our students are exceptional, and they are why we exist. We want everyone to see first-hand all they accomplish at Bornblum," said Weiss. **HW** 

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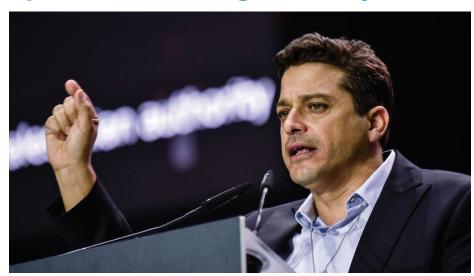
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#### Israeli Minister Addresses Convention Hosted by Vox, Spanish Far-Right Party Criticized for Neo-Nazi Ties



Amichai Chikli, Israel's Minister of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Anti-Semitism speaks during the 'Europa Viva 24' conference at Palacio Vistalegre on May 19, 2024, in Madrid, Spain. The Europa VIVA initiative will bring together conservative, right wing politicians from all over Europe and the world. Thousands are expected to attend the convention, which comes just weeks before European parliamentary elections. Credit: Juan Naharro Gimenez/Getty Images

#### By Shira Li Bartov

MADRID (JTA) – A convention hosted by Vox, Spain's far-right party that has been criticized for welcoming neo-Nazis, counts Israel's Minister of Diaspora Affairs Amichai Chikli among its featured speakers last weekend.

Chikli appeared at Europa Viva 24, a conference joining Europe's rightwing leaders and more than 10,000 attendees in Madrid. For Chikli, a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party, it's the latest stop in a tour of engagements with European politicians who advocate pro-Israel positions from parties with antisemitic and neo-Nazi roots.

Both Chikli and Javier Milei, Argenti-

na's new right-wing, pro-Israel president, were invited to address the conference. In his speech, Chikli lambasted Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, who has sharply criticized Israel's war against Hamas, which Chikli called "an existential battle for the future of humanity."

In Spain, Vox is controversial both for its platform – which includes restricting abortion access, repealing domestic violence laws and shuttering the ministry of equality – and for a history of neo-Nazis in its ranks. Five years ago, the party nominated Holocaust revisionist Fernando Paz as a congressional candidate. Paz has said the facts of the Holocaust are "far from being established with accuracy"

and called the Nuremberg trials a "farce."

Vox is also home to Jordi de la Fuente, a member of the Barcelona government who previously led the neo-fascist Republican Social Movement, which dissolved in 2018. Other Vox members have included José María Ruiz Puerta, who led the neo-Nazi group CEDADE, and José Ignacio Vega Peinado, who was part of the neo-Nazi group Radical Action in the 1990s and received prison time for attacking and permanently disabling a professor at the University of Valencia.

Pedro Valera, a leader of Spanish neo-Nazism who has served jail time for disseminating hate speech, also recently appeared at Vox's closing campaign ceremony in Barcelona.

Until recently, officials in the Likud party were discouraged from promoting alliances with Vox. In 2019, Netanyahu's then-foreign affairs director Eli Hazan tweeted his support for the party and faced enough backlash to delete and apologize for the post.

But those boundaries have disappeared under Israel's current right-wing government. In December, Chikli met with Vox president Santiago Abascal, whom he called "a man of truth who, in the twilight of Western civilization, where moral relativism threatens to collapse it, stands as a beacon of moral clarity."

Last month, Chikli attended CPAC Hungary and praised Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, a longtime ideological ally of Netanyahu's, as a "supporter of Israel." (The authoritarian leader has been condemned by U.S. antisemitism envoy Deborah Lipstadt for "rhetoric that clearly evokes Nazi racial

ideology," as well as by Hungarian rabbis.) Chikli spoke alongside Tom Van Grieken, president of Belgium's Vlaams Belang party, which promotes the "Great Replacement" conspiracy theory and uses the Nazi term "omvolking" ("repopulation"), mainly referring to European immigration from Muslim countries.

Chikli also met earlier this year with Sweden's far-right party, the Swedish Democrats. The second-largest party in the Swedish parliament, it has a history of Nazi founders and its members have been criticized for connections with neo-Nazi movements even in recent years. Israel has so far avoided establishing official ties with the party, but the Swedish Democrats have declared it "the most pro-Israel party in Sweden."

Chikli's ministry is charged with engaging and supporting the half of Jews who do not live in Israel; he added fighting antisemitism to its mandate when he assumed the position last year. But while Chikli is strengthening his bond with far-right European parties, he has said that he is not interested in building a relationship with some Jews around the world.

In January, at a conference hosted by the European Jewish Association in Krakow, Chikli said his official capacity would not induce him to build alliances with Diaspora Jews who participate in international protests against Israel's military campaign in Gaza.

"A Jew who feels at home surrounded by a mob that is shouting, 'From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,' I don't consider him a Jew," Chikli told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "I don't want to build a bridge with him." HW

### Meta Asks for Content Moderation Help with Posts that Say 'All Israelis are Criminals'



Pro-Palestinian protestors rally in Edmonton, Canada, Feb. 25, 2024. Credit: Artur Widak/NurPhoto via Getty Images

#### By Asaf Elia-Shalev

(JTA) – Should social media users be allowed to call Israelis "criminals?" What if users are specifically talking about alleged war crimes by the Israeli government?

Meta says not all cases are clear cut and that it needs help to make sure it's striking the right balance between blocking hate speech and allowing the free expression of criticism. The task falls to the Oversight Board, an independent that oversees content moderation on Meta platforms Facebook, Instagram and Threads.

The board will review three recent posts that Meta removed and consider recommending changes to Meta's hate speech policies. In a post from January, a Threads user, replying to a video on the Israel-Hamas war, wrote, "All Israelis are criminals." In December, a Facebook user writing in Arabic referred to Russians and Americans as "criminals." In March someone commented on an Instagram post, "All Indians are rapists."

All three cases were flagged for review by Meta's automated systems, and

the company ultimately concluded that all three violated its hate speech policy prohibiting attacks on groups of people on the basis of nationality.

But there's sometimes room for interpretation, especially during military conflict and other crises, because users are generally allowed to make claims of criminality against states or institutions, Meta told the board.

As it considers the case, the board is asking for the public to provide perspectives on the impact of Meta policies on the ability of users to speak out against actions by governments and the impact of posts calling an entire group of people "criminals." The board also wants suggestions for criteria to distinguish between attacks on a group of people and attacks on institutions.

It's not the first time Meta has strained to apply its policies to real-life situations since the start of the war between Israel and Hamas in October. The board is currently evaluating whether the Palestinian rallying cry "from the river to sea" should be allowed on Meta's platforms. HW



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# 'Death to America! Death to Israel!' Chants Ring Out at Raisi's Funeral

By Adi Nirman

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei oversaw a memorial service at Tehran University last Wednesday to honor President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and others killed in a recent helicopter crash.

"Oh Allah, we didn't see anything but good from him [Raisi]," Khamenei said in the standard prayer for the dead in Arabic.

Iran's acting president, Mohammad Mokhber, stood nearby and openly wept during the service. People then carried the coffins out on their shoulders, chanting, "Death to America!" followed by a crowd estimated in the tens of thousands participating in a procession through Tehran, following the caskets.

Among those present were top leaders of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, one of the country's major power centers. Also in attendance were leaders of terrorist groups backed by Iran – Naim Qassem, the deputy leader of Hezbollah, and Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas, which has received arms and support from Iran during the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

Before the funeral, Haniyeh spoke to the crowd and said, "I come in the name of the Palestinian people, in the name of the resistance factions of Gaza ... to express our condolences," and an emcee led the crowd in chanting "Death to Israel!" Haniyeh recounted meeting Raisi in Tehran during Ramadan and described him calling the Oct. 7 attack that sparked the war, which saw some 1,200 people killed and 252 others taken hostage, an "earthquake in the heart of the Zionist entity."

Moscow, Iran's close ally, sent Vyacheslav Volodin, the chairman of the State Duma lower house of the Federal Assembly of Russia, to attend the

Raisi, 63, was elected president at the second attempt in 2021, and since taking office ordered a tightening of morality laws and pushed hard in nuclear talks with world powers. He had earned the chilling moniker "Butcher of Tehran" for his involvement in the execution of thousands of Iranian protesters during the 1980s, casting a dark shadow over his presidential legacy.

Raisi's tenure as president was further marred by widespread protests against the oppressive Iranian regime, sparked by the tragic death of Mahsa Amini in 2022. Amini, a Kurdish woman arrested for allegedly wearing her hijab improperly, died in police custody, igniting nationwide demonstrations.

Authorities ruthlessly suppressed these protests, resulting in at least 551 deaths and tens of thousands of arrests. Many saw Raisi as burnishing his credentials to become Khamenei's successor as Iran's supreme leader. HW

# How a Family Limited Partnership Can Power an Estate Plan

Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors

Questions for Mike? You can reach him at 901,761,8151 or Michael.Stein@WellsFargoAdvisors.com fa.wellsfargoadvisors.com/michael-stein

One challenge faced by family-run businesses involves transitioning both the ownership and operations from one generation to the next. A family limited partnership (FLP) is a legal agreement that enables business owners and their heirs to address succession, estate, and tax planning needs all at once.

Business owners who want family members to inherit their businesses in the future could use FLPs to transfer assets out of their taxable estates during their lifetimes. And to do so, the owners of a valuable business might begin this process many years before they intend to give up operational control.

#### **Estate tax threat**

The IRS calculates the estate tax due on an individual's gross taxable estate by adding the value of all owned assets, including a home and a business, and subtracting any applicable exemptions. Even if the taxable estate falls below the current generous federal estate tax exemption level (\$13.61 million or \$27.22 million for a married couple in 2024), the family might not be entirely out of the woods, especially if they live in a state that has an estate tax or an inheritance tax with a lower exemption amount. Perhaps more concerning, the federal estate tax exemption is scheduled to revert to inflation-adjusted 2017 levels in 2026.

When business owners fail to consider that federal and state estate taxes could be due upon their passing, the funds needed to pay the taxes may not be available, and their heirs may be forced to borrow the money or liquidate the business.

72% = Share of U.S. business owners who want to ensure their business stays in the family

Source: US Family Business Survey, PricewaterhouseCoopers, 2023

#### Family discount

With an FLP, general partners run the business. Limited partners (such as the children of general partners) have no vote and no say about day-to-day operations, and they are not liable for the debts of the FLP.

A general partner (or a corporation or limited liability company controlled by the general partner) can gift ownership shares to limited partners in installments that conform to the annual gift tax exclusion of \$18,000 per recipient (in 2024). Because limited partners have restricted rights, these annual gifts may be valued at a discount - typically 30% or more - from fair market value. For example, more than \$25,000 worth of property or business shares (currently valued at \$18,000 for gift tax purposes) could potentially be transferred to each limited partner without triggering gift taxes. Of course, every family's situation is different, and actual results will vary.

Setting up a family limited partnership can involve complex tax rules and regulations, and there are up-front costs as well as ongoing fees and operating expenses to consider. Be sure to consult with your tax and estate planning professionals.

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### Hamas Terror Leader Haniyeh Meets with Khamenei in Tehran



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, right, speaks with Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh, center, as Iran's acting president Mohammad Mokhber sits at left, during their meeting in Tehran, Iran, May 22, 2024. Source: Office of the Iranian Supreme Leader.

(JNS) – Ismail Haniyeh, head of the Hamas terrorist movement's political bureau, was pictured meeting with Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in Tehran last Wednesday.

In the picture, released by Khamenei's office, Haniyeh is sitting on the couch along with Iran's acting president, Mohammad Mokhber.

Haniyeh was in the country to participate in the funeral of Iranian president Ibrahim Raisi, who was killed in a he-

licopter crash last Sunday along with seven others, including Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

Khamenei also published video of the encounter to his X social media account, writing that the "[h]ead of Hamas' political bureau, Mr. Ismail Haniyeh, offered his condolences on behalf of the Palestinian nation & govt on the martyrdom-like death of President Raisi & his entourage to Imam Khamenei & the Iranian nation." HW

# Norway, Spain and Ireland will All Recognize Palestinian State



Spanish President Pedro Sanchez (R) and the prime minister of Ireland, Simon Harris together speak after an April meeting in Dublin in which they expressed their willingness to endorse a Palestinian state. Credit: Moncloa via Getty Images

#### By Shira Li Bartov

(JTA) – Spain, Norway and Ireland said last Wednesday they would formally recognize a Palestinian state, a sign of Israel's challenges on the global stage.

The countries portrayed the step as an attempt to salvage long-dormant prospects for progress toward a two-state solution, creating a Palestinian state alongside Israel. Israel castigated the move as a reward for Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, which launched the current war.

"Last month I stood on these same steps with Prime Minister Sanchez of Spain, and we said that the point of recognizing the state of Palestine was coming closer," Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris said in Dublin last Wednesday. "That point has now arrived."

He said it was "an historic and important day for Ireland and Palestine," adding that the recognition has come "because we believe in freedom and justice as the fundamental principles of international law and because we believe that permanent peace can only be secured on the basis of the free will of a free people."

The three countries' coordinated announcements last Wednesday underscore the degree to which the international community has lost patience with Israel amid its war against Hamas in Gaza, now in its eighth month.

Recognition of a Palestinian state is a symbolic step with no immediate material impact for Palestinians living in Gaza and the West Bank. But it represents a sharp rebuke to Israel, whose current government opposes Palestinian statehood and which has long held that a diplomatic resolution to the conflict should come only via negotiations.

Israel swiftly condemned the announcements and recalled its ambassadors from Ireland and Norway last Wednesday. Its far-right finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich, called for settlement expansion in the West Bank as well as the withholding of Palestinian tax revenue paid via Israel.

"Today's decision sends a message to the Palestinians and the world: Terrorism pays," said Israeli foreign minister Israel Katz.

Although 140 countries already recognize Palestine as a sovereign state, most Western European countries have avoided the move until now. Harris said he was "confident" that more countries would recognize Palestine in the coming weeks.

The office of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who governs Palestinian population centers in the West Bank, welcomed the announcement. Abbas has made pushing for international recognition of Palestinian statehood a mainstay of his presidency, and has appealed to the United Nations and other bodies to advance it, over Israeli objections.

"The right of peoples to self-determination is an established right recognized under international law, and the State of Palestine renews its continuous call to countries that have not yet recognized the State of Palestine to stand up to their responsibilities and acknowledge the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination," his office said in a statement, according to the Palestinian Wafa news agency.

Spain, Norway and Ireland all said their official recognition would go into effect on May 28. Norway was the first to make its announcement, carrying a particular symbolism because of its role in hosting the 1993 Oslo Accords, a framework for peace that placed Palestinian population centers under limited Palestinian rule but ultimately failed to end the decades-long conflict and the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Jonas Gahr Støre, the prime minister of Norway, said recognizing an independent Palestine was necessary to end the conflict. He urged other countries to take the same step "so that the process towards a two-state solution finally can begin again."

Harris also linked Ireland's founding to the future of the Palestinians.

"From our own history we know what it means, recognition is an act of powerful political and symbolic value," he said.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, who has been harshly critical of Israel's war in Gaza, pointed to Israel's lack of a peace plan with the Palestinians as driving his decision, saying, "The two-state solution is in danger." In April, Sanchez visited with both Harris and Støre as part of a European tour aiming to drum up support for recognizing Palestine; he also met with leaders in Belgium and Slovenia at the time.

Although the United States, a firm ally of Israel, has not unilaterally endorsed an independent Palestinian state, its official policy includes commitment to a two-state solution. No serious peace negotiations have taken place in more than a decade. **HW** 

#### **OBITUARIES**



Marjean Gidens Kremer

Marjean Gidens Kremer, of Memphis, Tenn., and Los Altos, Calif., passed away on May 19, 2024, after a wonderful life filled with family and friends. Marjean was born on Christmas Eve 1935 in Kansas City, Mo. to Floyd Edward Gidens (Gidinsky), Col. USA, and Marian Miller Gidens.

Marjean was a wonderful combination of intellectually curious and socially active. She was small but mighty. She was a grand master bridge player, a wonderful storyteller, and a connector of people. With an amazing memory, Marjean could recall details with incredible accuracy and loved sharing anecdotes from the past. She could chat with anyone and make them feel at home. She was incredibly active and giving with her expansive friend group, her family, and her community.

An only child, Marjean grew up active and curious in Kansas City. She attended college at the University of Missouri from 1953-56 where she excelled academically and socially. Her many achievements included Junior Honor 5, Phi Beta Kappa, Mortar Board, editor of the college newspaper, yearbook, and humor magazine, and SGA. Marjean graduated from Washington University in 1957 with highest honors and was asked to be Marshall of her class.

Marjean met the love of her life, Richard Kremer, in 1953 when she was at Ft. Bragg visiting with her parents, where her father was a Colonel. They were by each other's sides for the next 67 years of marriage. They raised three children in Richard's home of Memphis, which quickly became Marjean's adopted home and community.

Marjean worked in psychology, was an author, and was an avid volunteer. After Richard graduated from Yale, they returned to Memphis where Marjean worked as the sole city school psychologist for the Memphis Public Schools from 1959-1962. In the late 80s, while working for VISTA for MIFA she coordinated the Historic Black Memphis exhibit at Memphis Pink Palace Museum, and co-wrote, with Selma Lewis, the book "The Angel of Beale Street," a biography about prominent black Memphian Julia Ann Hooks.

Between raising her family and working, Marjean was also a tireless volunteer in Memphis, constantly giving back to this community that she had adopted as her own: Jewish Welfare Fund, The National Council of Jewish Women, Temple Israel Sisterhood, Front Street Theatre, White Station district parent council, and Planned Parenthood to name just a few.

Marjean is survived by her husband, Richard Kremer, children Lisa Gidens Kremer Ullmann (Michael Ullmann), Marian Miller Kremer (Kris Hagerman), and John Merrill Kremer (Chrissie Kremer), 8 grandchildren: Matt Ullmann (Sheri Ullmann), Emily Ullmann, Lauren Ullmann, Cole Hagerman, Paige Hagerman, Carter Kremer, Will Kremer and Taber Kremer, and 1 great-grandchild (Theodore Richard Ullmann).

An in-person and Zoom Celebration of Marjean's Life will be planned for a future date to be determined. In lieu of flowers (which Marjean loved), the family suggests sending memorial contributions to one of Marjean's many Memphis Passions: Memphis Inter-Faith Association (mifa.org) or Opera Memphis (operamemphis.org), in memory of our amazing Marjean Kremer. **HW** 

#### Sidney Sablow

Sidney Sablow, 86, of San Antonio, Texas, died on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at his home. Born in San Antonio, Texas, on October 14, 1937, Sidney was the son of the late Mollye and Hyman Sablow and the brother of the late Adele Sablow Hanover of Memphis, Tenn., and the late Morris Sablow of San Antonio, Texas. A beloved son, brother and uncle.

Sidney was a career teacher in the Memphis City Public School System for 17 years until 1980 and then with the Texas Public School system from 1980 until his retirement in 2008. Sidney was a member of the Congregation Rodfei

Shalom and is survived by his sister-in-law, Selma Sablow, nieces and nephews, James Sablow, Lee (Frumie) Hanover, Trudy (Gabriel Ztl) Klugmann, Wendy (Chaim) Brecher and Marc (Jan) Hanover and the whole extended Spector family.

The funeral service was held on Sunday, May 19, 2014, at the Rodfei Shalom in San Antonio.

The family requests that any memorials be sent to Congregation Rodfei Shalom located at 3003 Sholom drive San Antonio, Texas, 78230.

You are invited to sign the Guestbook at www.porterloring.com **HW** 

#### **OBITUARIES**

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#### Miracles Everywhere



Editor's note: This story is being reprinted in memory of Ted Roberts in appreciation of his longtime service as a newspaper columnist.

Ted Roberts

I guess it all depends on what you mean by "miracle." Or to use a fancy schmancy German word that I've been trying to work into a story for months – "weltanschaung" – world view. (Germans can't express anything philosophical in less than 11 letters.)

For example, Believers and Evolutionists have dueled since Darwin's day over the origins of humanity. Silly. The scientists ignore the poetry of G-d's breath on clay and all its implications, and the Believers can't see G-d's hand in the magical clump of clustered cells within the well-dressed ape called man.

Woman born of a rib of Adam? "You shall become one flesh," said the Miracle Maker to Adam and Eve. Big deal? Miraculous? I find it literally unimpressive compared to the appearance of your infant daughter conceived from a microscopic drop of fluid that the Mas-

ter Magician turned into a girl child that insisted on first, dolls then a two-speed, yellow bike and later a wedding that would sustain Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for a week. That's not a miracle? Miracle of miracles, you say. OK, but not compared to the natural state of events designed by the Creator.

I mean – open your eyes – he sculpted the Earth and hung it among the galaxies, and it hasn't fallen once – due to His law. Who needs small stuff like manna and quail in the Sinai and the several resuscitations that follow in the prophets.

Yes, the parting of the Red Sea was maybe a "miracle" (or a gusty West wind) and so was manna in the sandy Sinai and there's a few more when we get to the prophets. But I say they're small potatoes compared to the common tabby cat manufactured by the millions by the G-d who plucked Israel from the claws of the Egyptians. That cat is a survival machine. No confusion here — no pantheism — we don't worship the cat — we marvel and worship the Creator of cats and people and galaxies and sunsets.

But you must admit He did a heckuva job on that cat. (But more about that later.)

We admire His unimaginable mechanism that he designed for the human plumbing system. Orthodox Jews say a prayer every time they use the system.

Talk about miracles – so many conduits and passageways and pipes and tubes in the human body. As delicate as your bubbe's lace tablecloth and yet it works. Observant Jews praise His genius every time they use the system that after all, He only loaned to them for hopefully seven to nine decades. Asher Yotsar, they call the prayer. Again, we are awed by creation, but we always bow to the artist, not the painting.

But to get back to my cat, she's an exhibition of hard-wired survival techniques. Unlike the strong human mother, she has a litter of four or five - the mama salmon lays 100,000 eggs, thereby assuring that under the worst conditions the species is perpetuated. Secondly, the cat can scamper up the Pine tree whenever she's inclined. A great talent if you like squirrels for supper. And the cat is like your cell phone in that she must recharge her batteries with frequent naps. She seems to understand that you must cleanse your hide. Like Cleopatra, she's constantly grooming her skin. She knows 101 tricks about hunting.

But here's the mystical part. Most cats never read that classic called "Cat Raising for Dummies." Yet habits, necessary to life, somehow pass from the mother cat to that ball of fur called the kitten. Now that's a miracle! We use the

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word instinctive, but we don't know its meaning. Autopsy a cat and you won't find "instinct" any more than you find soul in the human cadaver. There's as much of Hashem in the cat as in the Humash – which is not to be disrespectful. He made it with His usual powers. The same natural powers He used to part the Red Sea

Why would He who created and sanctified the rule of nature break his own protocol? He hates to interfere, you know.

The syndicated humor of Ted, the Scribbler on the roof, has appeared in newspapers around the U.S., on National Public Radio, and numerous websites. **HW** 

# Netanyahu to Address Joint Session of Congress, Johnson Says

(JNS) – Republicans and Democrats are poised to invite Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to address a joint session of Congress, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) announced last Wednesday.

Johnson repeatedly urged Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) to co-sign a letter inviting Netanyahu to address the lawmakers.

"I spoke with him today and he's going to sign the letter jointly and it'll get out to the prime minister this week," the House speaker told Britain's "The Independent" after votes in the House last Wednesday

Earlier last Wednesday, "Axios" cited Johnson as saying that he had "not spoken to [Schumer] personally, but our staffs have communicated and it seems as though he wants to sign on. I expect it to happen today or as quickly as possible because we have to get the letter sent out."

Johnson said he did not have a date set, telling "The Independent," "No, I'm going to talk [with] Prime Minister Netanyahu about that today."

The Biden administration said last Wednesday that it had not been in-

formed of a visit by the Israeli leader. "We'll stay in touch with the prime minister and obviously we'll stay in touch with the Congress and see what happens," said National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan.

"So we have not at this point heard from the prime minister on a joint address to the Congress, the president talks to the prime minister in fact, he just talked to him not too long ago, senior administration officials engaged with him I just did so over the weekend," Sullivan added

Johnson first floated the proposal in

March, shortly after Schumer said Netanyahu was "an obstacle for peace" and called for early Israeli elections. The Jewish senator's remarks drew intense criticism from colleagues across the aisle and even a gentle reproach from his own party.

"It is highly inappropriate and simply wrong for Senator Schumer to be calling for new elections in Israel," Johnson said at the time. "We need to stand strong with Israel, but the White House and Senate Democrats are seemingly standing with and supporting Iran and its proxies instead." HW

# **ISRAEL INSIGHTS** *Elections Sooner or Later*

By Howard Weisband

Unlike elections, which will happen definitively in the U.S. in November, national elections in Israel can happen with 90-days-notice. In Israel's parliamentary system, modelled and somewhat like that in England, a Government is sworn in once a coalition is established following elections. Its mandate is to serve for four years when the next election is to be called, but a Government can fall requiring new elections if sufficient members of the Government or coalition resign and the Prime Minister no longer has a majority of the 120 member Knesset backing him.

Public pressure often can be brought to influence such to happen, whether through demonstrations or statements and actions by prominent individuals, especially those in the Government.

That is a simple explanation of what may be happening as I write this column on May 22. Multiple factors are affecting the situation.

First, what does the Israeli electorate feel, as difficult as that is to assess, especially at a time of prolonged war with an evil enemy that continues to wickedly hold our hostages in their despicable grips.

A poll commissioned by the Israel

Democracy Institute at the end of January 2024 showed that a "large majority (71% of Israelis) believe that elections should be brought forward (from 2026), with 38% of the opinion that elections should be held when the war ends, and 33% that elections should be announced now and then held in around three months' time, as the law requires in such cases."

More recently, a poll conducted by the Midgam Institute for Channel 12 News indicated that "50% (of Israelis) believe that the elections should be moved up." The date seems undefined, but "moved up" simply means do not wait until 2026 when the next elections would have to take place.

Israelis, including me, historically have not wanted to hold national elections in the midst of war. But more telling, that seems to be changing. The Midgam poll referred to, taken on the six-month anniversary of the war, "revealed that the public is not satisfied with the way Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is conducting the war in Gaza." Further, "49% of respondents agreed with the claim that Netanyahu makes his decisions based on political motives, and 35% answered that he acts

from practical motives."

I believe that the latter finding re political motivations superseding national considerations is a damning statement, and it appears to be a growing sentiment within the nation, thus potentially affecting the life of this Government.

Two members of the current Government, both former IDF generals and Chiefs of Staff, seized very recently upon that growing reality within the public. Neither have been loyal allies of the Prime Minister.

In a news conference on May 15, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, a member of the Likud, publicly implied that Netanyahu's indecision on "the day after" in Gaza stemmed from his "unwillingness to pay a political price.... leading de facto to IDF control over Gaza." "The Jerusalem Post" described the Gallant news conference as a "political bombshell."

National Unity Party leader Benny Gantz, a member of the Government and the War Cabinet, though not a member of the original 64 member coalition, followed up the Gallant challenge by issuing an ultimatum to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday evening, May 18, stating that his party will leave the government if the Cabinet

does not approve a comprehensive war strategy by June 8.

As detailed in ynet.news and throughout the media, Ganz outlined six specific objectives relating to Gaza, and then addressed normalization with Saudi Arabia and policy toward Iran.

Neither the actions of Gallant nor Ganz means that the Government will fall in the immediate future and that elections will be called. Both however are now popular politicians showing greater polling strength than Netanyahu. Momentum seems to be building in that direction. The telling factor would be if four or five additional members of the Likud would decide to join Gallant and Ganz.

Might there be November elections (or earlier) in Israel as well as those in the U.S.? Stay tuned.

Howard Weisband served as Assistant Executive Director (1975-77) and Executive Director (1977-84) of the Memphis Jewish Federation. Following Aliyah with his family in 1986, he served as Secretary General of the Jewish Agency for Israel through 1997, and then in other senior professional positions in Israel. Now retired, he and Kayla live in Jerusalem. He can be reached at hweisband@gmail.com HW

# Meet Jill Hausman, the Real Rabbi who Grimaced Through Jokes about Jews on SNL's 'Weekend Update'



Rabbi Jill Hausman of the Actors' Temple in New York appears on 'Saturday Night Live' on May 18, 2024. (Screenshot via YouTube)

#### By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – For Rabbi Jill Hausman, spiritual leader of the Actors' Temple in Manhattan's Theater District, working with celebrities comes with the job description.

So when she saw an email on Thursday from "Saturday Night Live," asking her to be on that week's show, she knew she had to accept.

"If opportunities come along, it's such great fun for me to be in something with other people," she told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "If people come to me with an opportunity, as long as I can, I'll try to say yes. It's kind of like saying yes to life."

In this case, the gig involved a surprise appearance on "Weekend Update," SNL's parody news show. The five-minute appearance, in which Hausman was all but silent, placed her on millions of TV screens – grimacing in reaction to jokes about Israel, student protests and Jewish "space lasers."

"The whole experience has just been loads and loads of fun," Hausman told

JTA.

On Saturday morning, Hausman led Shabbat prayers and a memorial service in Western Massachusetts, then drove back down to Midtown – making it in time to sit alongside the co-hosts of "Update," Michael Che and Colin Jost, for the show's 49th season finale.

Hausman, who has been a rabbi for 20 years and has also served as a cantor, has experience singing on stage. But her role on SNL was simpler:

"They asked me to make the host, Colin Jost, uncomfortable," Hausman

Hausman was brought along for a recurring segment in which Che and Jost do a joke swap: They make each other read increasingly edgier jokes that the other has never seen before.

During an episode in December, Che brought an actress to pretend to be a civil rights activist who had marched with Martin Luther King, Jr. (Hausman was shown that clip when SNL explained the role to her.)

But, Che admitted to Jost, "That was low. So to make it up to you, this time I invited an actual practicing rabbi." The camera panned to Hausman, who was clad in a large kippah and prayer shawl at the show's request.

"I think I was supposed to be recognizable as a rabbi and not just to look like a regular person," she said. "I think it was an identification kind of thing."

What followed were a series of increasingly cringey jokes – written by Che and read by Jost – about Israel and the Jews.

As a picture of Jerry Seinfeld flashed onscreen, Jost said, "Pro-Palestinian protesters walked out of Jerry Seinfeld's commencement address at Duke University, and I think that's disgraceful. During these difficult times I think it's important to support our Jewish friends."

He continued, "That's why the only chant you'll hear from me is 'Free Weinstein!' Keep fighting, Harvey! Am I right, bubbeleh?"

Hausman shook her head in disbelief. (Harvey Weinstein, the former movie producer, recently had one of his sexual abuse convictions overturned, but he remains imprisoned because of a different conviction.)

Later, Jost turned to Hausman and said, alluding to a prominent antisemitic conspiracy theory, "So Rabbi Jill, if you're here, who's controlling the weather?" She smiled and pursed her lips.

Another punchline, referencing comments by Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, involved a puppet of a male Orthodox rabbi threatening to hit MSNBC with "our space lasers" if coverage of Israel is too critical. (Another involved Jost's wife, Scarlett Johansson, who is Jewish.)

"I was glad the jokes weren't worse than they were," Hausman said last Monday. "I didn't know what was going to be said specifically until I got to the studio and then I kind of knew. So I just was hoping that they wouldn't say anything really, really against Israel, which they didn't."

The Actors' Temple, founded by shop-keepers in 1917 as an Orthodox congregation known as the West Side Hebrew Relief Association, became a spot popular among actors who, in the early 20th century, were not welcome in other spaces. It was once attended by two of the Three Stooges, Sandy Koufax, actor Shelley Winters and comedians Red Buttons, Jack Benny, Al Jolson, Milton Berle, Sophie Tucker and Henny Youngman.

Hausman is not even the first member of the synagogue to make an appearance on SNL.

In 2011, current synagogue co-president Bob Greenberg appeared onstage during Jim Carrey's monologue. Carrey had proposed marriage to a member of the audience in the front row, who did not accept. So Carrey then begrudgingly grabbed Greenberg from another seat, and brought him up onstage, announcing him as his "new life partner."

Hausman says she had a good time.

"I went to have fun and to represent the Jewish community," Hausman added. "I think it's important to show up as a member of the Jewish community and I did it for the Actors' Temple also. I did it for the fun of it." **HW** 

#### Nikki Haley to Make Solidarity Visit to Israel

By Ariel Kahana, JNS staff

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley is scheduled to pay a solidarity visit to Israel next week.

Haley, who served as ambassador during Trump's presidency, plans to tour communities near the Gaza border as well as in the north of the country during her visit, which was set to begin Monday [May 27], according to former Israeli U.N. envoy Danny Danon, who is to accompany her. She is also scheduled to meet with Israeli leaders and senior security officials.

Haley's visit comes after a group of former Trump administration foreign policy officials met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other officials last Monday.

The group was headed by former national security advisor Robert O'Brien and included former U.S. ambassador to the United Arab Emirates John Rakolta and former ambassador to Switzerland Ed McMullen, according to Reuters.

While according to the report the trip was not arranged by Trump, he will nevertheless likely be briefed on the conversations.

Haley announced last Wednesday that she would support Trump's third bid for the White House, putting aside their past differences. She has recently been rumored to be under consideration as Trump's running mate, although Trump himself quickly rebuffed this. Haley mounted an unexpectedly robust challenge to Trump in the Republican primaries, garnering support from a broad coalition of mainstream party donors, officials and voters. She amassed 97 delegates, according to an analysis by The Associated Press.

But Trump dominated the primary race from the outset, steamrolling his opponents with a campaign war chest unmatched in modern presidential politics. He ultimately secured the 1,237 delegates required to clinch the Republican nomination on the first ballot.

Haley's decision to back Trump reflects the former president's continued grip on the Republican base despite his role in the Jan. 6 riot and his third indictment on criminal charges earlier this month. Yet her willingness to join his campaign in some capacity also underscores the fissures within the party over how to move forward after the tumultuous Trump era.

Trump has recently come out in strong support of Israel's war against Hamas. At a rally in New Jersey earlier this month, the former president voiced his support for "Israel's right to win its war on terror," and claimed Hamas's Oct. 7 attack would not have occurred under his watch.

The Israel Democracy Institute's April 2024 Israeli Voice Index showed a plurality of Israelis prefer Trump to Riden HW

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